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U. S. Department of Agriculture

C O P Y

August 3, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Secretary:

There are transmitted herewith items for consideration in connection with the preparation of the report to the Executive Council for the week ending August 3.

Eighteen States share in effective grasshopper campaign.--The extensive campaign against grasshoppers in the West waged by Federal and State forces has been completed. Reports received from all reliable sources indicate that as a result of this work, cultivated crops were well protected by the general use of the grasshopper bait furnished the States by the Federal Government. This was particularly true of such States as were included in the grasshopper egg survey, made in the fall of 1933, and where the infestation was most intense. The only areas in these States where material damage was done by grasshoppers was in the northernmost tier of counties in North Dakota and in the extremely drought stricken southeastern portion of Montana. In both of these areas, owing to the dried up condition of crops, the farmers became greatly discouraged and hence failed to cooperate fully in the distribution of the poison. In this campaign there were delivered to the various States in all 78,370.885 tons of grasshopper bait and bait materials. The distribution of this by States was as follows:

<u>Surveyed States</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Unsurveyed States</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Idaho	705.	Michigan	1,195.
Nebraska	2,082.64	Colorado	2,070.
North Dakota	28,304.395	California	645.
Minnesota	2,046.72	Kansas	537.5
Montana	19,109.4	Oregon	402.5
South Dakota	12,830.75	Arizona	370.75
Wisconsin	2,235.	New Mexico	569.
Wyoming	4,455.	Utah	300.
Total	71,768.905	Nevada	311.75
		Iowa	200.48
			6,601.98

Distribution of Federal chinch bug barrier material completed.--All deliveries of chinch bug barrier material furnished by the Federal Government to the various States were completed in early July. The amount of

material, principally creosote, delivered to each State was as follows:

<u>State</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
Illinois	1,344,650
Iowa	2,042,818
Kansas	408,000
Oklahoma	9,000
Nebraska	104,000
Indiana	529,450
Missouri	1,194,850
Minnesota	77,000
Michigan	124,000
Ohio	198,500
Total	6,032,268

Reports received from State workers and by personal observations made by Department officials indicate that the actual injury resulting from chinch bug attack was considerably less than the earlier reports had indicated. This was in a considerable measure due to the effective use of barriers which reduced the extent of chinch bug migration. The severe drought conditions which occurred over much of the area complicated the problem and interfered to a considerable extent with the success of the campaign in some sections. Second-brood bugs are now appearing in considerable numbers in corn in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois, but as they are still small the amount of damage to be expected from them is not yet ascertainable.

Boll weevil situation.--The extended hot, dry weather over most of the Cotton Belt has caused the early maturity of the plants and reduced fruiting. These conditions have also tended to hold the boll weevil in check, but where there have been enough rains to keep the cotton in good growing condition the weevils have also been abundant, resulting in a spotted infestation with severe injury in some localities. All reports received this week show an increase in weevil infestation but this is due to the decrease in numbers of squares as well as the increase in weevils. F. F. Bondy, of the Florence, S.C., Laboratory, reports a slight increase in infestation at Florence, although the infestation continues the lowest in several years. The State Plant Board of Mississippi reports weevils present on all of the 91 farms in 26 counties examined last week. The infestation varied from 1 to 94 percent, averaging 36.9 percent as compared to 26 percent last week. Similar conditions exist in Louisiana, southern Arkansas, and southeastern Oklahoma. R. C. Gaines, of the Tallulah, La., Laboratory, reports difficulty in holding the weevil in check with frequent dusting in Madison Parish, La., now that general field migration has begun. Reports indicate a low general infestation in Texas with an increase expected following the heavy rains along the coast.

Tropical hurricane hits Texas coast.--The tropical hurricane which struck the Texas coast from Galveston to Corpus Christi on July 25 caused severe damage to crops. K. P. Ewing, of the Port Lavaca, Tex., Laboratory, reports wind velocity of 60 to 75 miles an hour with over 5 inches of rain. Damage to cotton is hard to estimate, but it is expected to range between 50 and

80 percent of the crop. Early plants loaded with bolls beginning to open were blown over and bolls are rotting, while less damage was caused to late cotton. Corn was more severely damaged than cotton. A heavy infestation of leaf worms and boll weevils is expected to follow, and farmers in Calhoun County have engaged an airplane to stand by for dusting.

Boll worm injury light.--The cotton boll worm is usually the most serious pest in the Brazos bottoms of Texas, but R. W. Moreland reports that the hot, dry weather this year has prevented the hatching of eggs and kept the infestation very low. Fewer reports of damage than usual have been received from other sections this year.

Pink bollworm trap-plots being discontinued.--The trap-plots of cotton in Texas, designed to attract early emerging pink bollworm moths, are gradually being discontinued for the season. E. R. McDonald, in field charge of the pink bollworm quarantine at San Antonio, Tex., reports that out of 25 plots only 6 are still showing a sufficient number of worms to justify carrying them further.

Late peaches attacked by curculio.--Six thousand carloads of Georgia peaches have been marketed to July 31. Although the markets were weak during one period in June and one in July, prices have been satisfactory and Georgia peach growers have on the whole made money on the crop this year. The season will close around the 15th of August. Second-brood curculio larvae attacked the Elbertas this year, which caused heavy grading in some packing sheds. Weather conditions delayed the ripening of Elbertas, the first picking being at least two weeks later than usual.

Citrus canker in Louisiana.--During the month of June, 11 sweet orange trees on the outskirts of the town of New Iberia, La., were found infected with citrus canker and were destroyed. Two recurrent infections of citrus canker, consisting of 3 infected trees, were found during the same period in Texas and were destroyed. It was in this same locality in Louisiana that citrus canker was found 6 or 7 years ago. Five properties were involved in this recent outbreak. In addition to the 11 infected trees destroyed, it was necessary as a precaution to destroy 23 other trees, making a total of 34 trees destroyed in Louisiana because of citrus canker. The 34 trees were located on 16 different properties within a radius of 2 blocks of what is believed to be the source of infection. On finding the infection, a minute and careful inspection of the surrounding property was made. All weeds and tall grass growing on vacant lots were carefully inspected and the result of this character of inspection was the finding of two rather old seedling sweets of about 12 years' age in some weeds on a vacant lot in the rear of the Southern Pacific Railroad repair shop. The shoots that were put out this year were not over 2 feet in height, but these shoots were heavily infected with citrus canker. The citrus canker infections found on these old

seedlings, that had been frozen down from time to time, were apparently considerably older infections than were the infections found in the door-yard citrus plants about a block away.

Citrus canker found in Texas.--In Texas one infection was in an orchard near Friendswood, Brazoria County; the other was in an orchard north of League City, Galveston County. The first infection involved one orange and one lemon tree. These trees with a number of adjoining trees were destroyed and the property around was sprayed with bichloride solution. The second infection was that of one grapefruit tree which was located among some satsumas, and this infected tree was destroyed. The satsumas were thoroughly sprayed but they, with other grapefruit trees remaining in the orchard, were not destroyed as the owner would not give permission to destroy trees unless actually infected. These trees and others in a similar condition are being carefully watched.

Japanese beetle trapping concluded in Virginia and Maryland.--Operation of Japanese beetle traps for the purpose of determining the absence or presence of the insect in the larger cities and towns in nonregulated sections of Maryland and Virginia was concluded during the week. Removal of the Virginia traps began on July 23 and was well under way at the end of the week. Trap removal in Maryland began on July 27 and is scheduled to be completed by August 3. These traps have been operated in the respective localities for the scheduled 30-day period. Since the traps on most routes are distributed in a number of nearby towns it will take about a week in each instance to lift, pack, and store the traps and bundle the supporting rods. Arrangements were also made during the week for winter storage of the traps and trap supplies. Practically without exception free storage space was secured for the equipment in the various cities that have served as section headquarters for this year's trap work. In most cities, space was allotted for this purpose in the basement of post office buildings.

European corn borer proving destructive in Connecticut and Massachusetts.--Reports from the district supervisor in Connecticut indicate that the corn borer is proving very destructive to the sweet corn crop of the State and has caused the growers considerable loss. Prices of the roasting ears are low. In some instances the farmers have plowed under their sweet corn since it would not pay to harvest the crop. Local sweet corn shipped into the Boston market is more heavily infested with the corn borer than for several years past. It has been reported that several chain lunch rooms and restaurants are not serving sweet corn because of the heavy corn borer infestation.

Satin moth scouting concluded.--Scouting of 30 townships just outside the territory quarantined for the satin moth was concluded during the week. Two townships in New Hampshire and two in Maine were found infested. Dis-

trict inspectors in New Hampshire and Maine report very little feeding by satin moth caterpillars as compared with last year. In some localities where large numbers of hibernating larvae were noted last fall, there are no signs of satin moth feeding this summer. Satin moth egg clusters are not as numerous in the quarantined zone as they were last summer.

Severe gypsy moth defoliation.--Trees surrounding summer cottages on the shore of Asneconick Lake, near Hubbardston, Mass., were completely defoliated this year by gypsy moth larvae. In Maine records have been taken for most of the more northern towns of the infested area and these show that defoliation is somewhat more extensive than last year. Records for the more southern towns are being obtained by one of the State officials and these records have not reached us. For New Hampshire a very large part of the State has been covered and indications are that there will be considerably more defoliation in that State this year than was recorded for last year. Records for Massachusetts are practically complete. For the entire State the total amount of defoliation this year will be somewhat less than last, as the increase in Worcester County will not offset the decrease in the three southeastern counties of Barnstable, Bristol, and Plymouth.

Douglas fir tussock moth found in Portland.--The Douglas fir tussock moth, first found in British Columbia in 1918, and in the United States on the Humbolt National Forest near Jarbidge, Nev., in 1927, according to F. P. Keen, of the Portland, Oreg., Laboratory, showed its potential destructiveness by killing thousands of acres of Douglas fir in northeastern Washington in 1929 to 1931. It appeared to be confined to the Great Basin, and it was considered unlikely to become a menace in the commercial Douglas fir forests of western Oregon and Washington. On June 11 a large colony of this destructive species was found defoliating an ornamental blue spruce in a Portland yard. Whether or not it is now established in this region and apt to cause serious damage is uncertain. At least every effort is being made to destroy all of the present colony and prevent its further development and spread.

Mosquito work successful.--Mosquito control work in Ocean City, Md., and the immediate vicinity, which was started as a CWA project, has been continued as a local project supported by FERA funds. The foreman in charge of the work makes the following statement as of July 17: "I have lived on this marsh 20 years, and never before have I been able to come out on the marsh any time from the first of April until late in October without having been eaten alive by mosquitoes. This winter I was a little skeptical as to whether this ditching would do any good, but every man I have

here as well as myself are certainly convinced of the benefits derived from ditching salt marsh areas."

Stable fly outbreak in Iowa.--An outbreak of the stable fly (Stomoxys calcitrans) is reported from central Iowa. Cattle and horses have suffered extremely. Such attacks are especially serious in cases where livestock are already weakened by lack of proper grazing. The pests have also been very abundant and annoying around city dwellings and around swimming pools where the arms and legs of persons were exposed. The outbreak followed liberal rains that occurred during the first half of July.

Tabulation of quarantine work.--Tabular reports of the activities of (1) the Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines, (2) Japanese beetle and gypsy moth and brown-tail moth quarantines, and European corn borer project, (3) gypsy moth control, (4) date scale, (5) transit inspection, are appended.

Respectfully,

LEE A. STRONG,  
Chief of Bureau.

Inclosures.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE DIVISION OF FOREIGN PLANT QUARANTINES FOR  
THE PERIOD JULY 1 TO JULY 15, 1934

Ships inspected-----	1,062
Ships with contraband plant material-----	393
Airplanes inspected-----	123
Airplanes with contraband plant material-----	11
Importations of plants and plant products inspected-----	1,403
Containers of Puerto Rican fruits and vegetables certified for ship- ment to the mainland-----	15,262
Foreign parcel-post packages inspected-----	1,129
Foreign parcel-post packages containing prohibited plant material---	54
Parcel-post packages from Puerto Rico to mainland inspected-----	38
Parcel-post packages from Puerto Rico to mainland containing pro- hibited plant material-----	4
Plant material disinfected as a condition of entry:	
Bagging-----	130 bale
Broomcorn-----	115 bale
Cotton-----	3,505 bale
Cotton linters-----	102 bale
Cotton samples-----	802
Cotton waste-----	1,590 bale
Miscellaneous plant material-----	34 lots
Freight cars inspected (Mexican Border)-----	1,069
Freight cars fumigated (Mexican Border)-----	261
Interceptions of prohibited plant material-----	1,880
Interceptions of insects and plant diseases-----	1,741
Inspection and certification of fresh fruits, vegetables, and nursery stock for export:*	
Shipments certified-----	90
Containers exported-----	26,863
Shipments of domestic plants entering the District of Columbia inspected-----	62
Shipments of domestic plants leaving the District of Columbia in- spected-----	59

\*In cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES UNDER JAPANESE BEETLE AND GYPSY MOTH AND BROWN-TAIL MOTH QUARANTINES, AND EUROPEAN CORN BORER PROJECT  
JULY 1 TO 15, 1934

Item	: Quarantines	: Project
: Japanese beetle	: Gypsy moth and brown-tail moth	: European corn borer
No. of calls by employees for purpose of inspecting quarantined material-----	: 1,985	: 634
Certificates of all types issued-----	: 18,131	: 11,886
Violations investigated-----	: 1/38	: 2/7
Interceptions at road stations-----	: 1,327	: 0

1/ One of these is a violation of Quarantine 48 and 62, and four are combined violations of Quarantine 48 and 45.

2/ Four of these are violations of Quarantine 48, as well as Quarantine 45.

SUMMARY OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN GYPSY MOTH CONTROL, JULY 1 TO 15,  
1934

	Scouting work				Burlap banding work			
State	: Number of woodland	: Trees Miles of acres	: examined roadsides	: Woodland in open	: Gypsy moth egg acres	: Burlap clusters	: Larvae bands	: and pupae
Vermont-----:	0	:	0	:	0	:	0	:
Massachusetts-:	45	:	0	:	800	:	$\frac{1}{4}$	:
Connecticut---:	0	:	0	:	0	:	34	:
Pennsylvania--:	0	:	0	:	0	:	0	:
Total-----:	45	:	0	:	800	:	$\frac{1}{4}$	:
							35	:
								23,702:211,349

State	Defoliation records			Assembling cage work			
	: Number of Towns		: Number of acres with examined	: Number of towns worked		: Male moths Cages put in	
	: defoliation			: out		: taken	
Maine----- :	65	:	23,736	:	0	:	0
New Hampshire-:	44	:	131,480	:	0	:	0
Vermont-----:	16	:	25	:	3	:	128
Massachusetts-:	169	:	118,250	:	0	:	0
Rhode Island--:	37	:	17,750	:	0	:	0
Connecticut---:	36	:	61	:	0	:	0
Pennsylvania--:	0	:	0	:	44	:	2,534
Total-----:	367	:	291,302	:	47	:	2,662
							0

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES UNDER DATE SCALE QUARANTINE, JULY 1 TO 15, 1934

Item	Arizona		California		
			Coachella	Imperial	Total
	Yuma	Phoenix	Valley	Valley	District
Date palms inspected from ground-----	0	469	2,543	0	3,012
Date palms inspected from ground and ladders-----	0	0	0	269	269
Properties checked for volunteer palms-----	0	167	0	0	167
Sections scouted for un-listed palms-----	0	1	0	0	1
Offshoots inspected for shipment-----	0	0	910	0	910

INSPECTION OF SHIPMENTS OF RESTRICTED ARTICLES TO DETERMINE  
COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF DOMESTIC PLANT  
QUARANTINES, JULY 1 TO 15, 1934

Station	Shipments inspected	Car lots inspected	Violations intercepted
Boston-----	2,218	-----	3
Chicago-----	592	44	0
Detroit-----	265	65	0
Indianapolis-----	173	-----	0
Jacksonville, Fla-----	891	-----	1
New York-----	4,368	-----	4
Philadelphia-----	3,344	-----	1
Washington, D.C-----	72	-----	0
Total-----	11,823	109	9

At Jacksonville 18,751 waybills were examined, and information was secured on 6,090 car lots of freight, to determine whether the shipments in question might need to be checked for compliance with plant quarantine regulations.

